



February 21, 2008

Testimony on AB 819 by Ross Kinzler, Executive Director

This bill permits the modular housing industry to consolidate the transportation of home sections on the highways. The bill does not change the legal length, width or height of these loads.

Modular home carriers are certain standard lengths which are longer than the home sections they carry. AB 819 will allow the industry to place other small house sections on these carriers so as to fully utilize them.

AB 819 saves energy and reduces congestion by reducing the number of trucks required to deliver a home to the building site.

Why now? Before this change in state law could be requested, federal rules needed to be clarified permitting so-called "divisible load" regarding modular home sections. Federal Highway officials have now stated that the federal rules are not applicable to these loads.

Why a statutory change? Industry and WisDOT officials explored whether amendments to Trans 260 would accomplish the goal. However, WisDOT attorneys examined the general divisible load exceptions in the statute and the provisions related to the movement of modular homes and concluded that more specific statutory authority is required in order to alter the administrative code.

The Wisconsin Housing Alliance believes this bill is a common sense approach to lessening reliance on fuels to deliver homes and to reduce the number of trucks on the highways related to this purpose. We urge your support.

# EXAMPLE: DIVISIBLE LOAD SHIPMENT WITH DORMER

